THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the seismic zoning map prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the country has been divided into five seismic zones. Out of these zones, zone 5 is considered to be the most severe while the zone 1 is the least. In order to quantify the seismic hazard in the country, the Government has initiated a programme on micro-zonation of the various cities located in zones—4 & 5. As a first step in this direction, micro-zonation of Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh has been started and is expected to be completed in about a year. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has recently upgraded its seismological observational network for better location and detection of earthquake activity. Through the scientific studies, building codes have been prepared by BIS and are available for use of public. These codes need to be adequately used for design & construction of buildings and retrofitting of the existing structures.

**Diversion of Lab Reserve Fund towards Phone Bills in CSIR Labs**

3936. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor Genera! of India for the year ended March, 1999 (No. 5 of 2000) after examining the records of (IIP, NPL, NCL, NISCOM, CMERI, IMTECH) laboratories of CSIR for the period 1994—99 states that the Directors of the above institute spent Rs. 77.41 lakhs from Lab Reserve Fund towards telephone/mobile phone bills during the period 1994—99; and

(b) if so, the annual budget allotted and the amount spent for telephone/mobile phones of each institute, year-wise and category-wise during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) CSIR allocates funds to each of the National Laboratory/Institute under the head

contingencies. The Laboratories/Institutes incur all the contingent expenditure, including that incurred on telephone bills out of this head. Any shortfall is permissible to be met out from Lab Reserve Fund (LRF) as per the approval of Governing Body, CSIR. The laboratory-wise and category-wise expenditure incurred on telephone mobile phone bills during the period 1994—99 is as per the statement *(See* below). Only two of CSIR National Laboratories/Institutes incurred expenditure from LRF for making payment towards mobile telephone bills. An amount of Rs. 1.87 lakhs, against Rs. 3.24 lakhs indicated in the CAG report, was incurred by National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) While Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) incurred Rs. 2.80 lakhs towards payment of mobile telephone bills, the Committee constituted by Director-General, CSIR to look into the matter relating to the payments of mobile telephone bills among others has submitted its report.

**Statement**

*Details of Telephone/Mobile Expenditure*

*(Rs. in Lakhs)*

| Lab Name | 1994-95 Tele-mobile | | 1995-96 Tele-mobile | | 1996-97 Tele-mobile | | 1997-98 Tele-mobile | | 1998-99 Tele-mobile | | Total Tele-mobile | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | phone Charges | pager | phooe Charges | pager | phooe Charges | pager | phooe Charges | pager | phone Charges | pager | phone Charges | pager |
| np | 9.55 | | 20.27 | | 25.23 | | 42.53 | | 44.99 | 2.80 | 142.57 | 2.80 |
| NCL | 18.55 | | 24.94 | | 27.32 | | 40.53 | 0.90 | 36.83 | 0.97 | 148.17 | 1.87 |
| NISCOM | 4.73 | | 3.20 | | 4.34 | | 2.83 | | 2.85 | | 17.95 | |
| CMERI | 10.45 | | 16.43 | | 26.30 | | 29.10 | | 35.24 | | 117.52 | |
| NPL | 15.15 | | 17.26 | | 17.93 | | 19.60 | | 20.71 | | 90.65 | |
| IMT | 4.00 | | 5.46 | | 6.33 | | 8.44 | | 7.53 | | 31.76 | |